

To: Mr. Robert J. Popovics, Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724, USPTO

Aug. 8, 2003

Re: Application No. 09/973,095, Effluent Discharge System
Notice of Action Dated 7/30/2003

Dear Mr. Popovics:

An updated version of the draft claim amendment below adding "a reservoir containing a body of water" to Claim 8 is to provide an improved description of the system over that I faxed on Aug. 6, 2003. I would appreciate it very much your comments and suggestions as to the satisfactory of the draft claims in compliance with the applicable codes at your convenience. Listed below are the draft claim amendments:

Claim 1 - 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (new):

A hydraulic mineral recovery and maintenance system for use in reservoirs comprising:

- a reservoir containing a body of water;
- a hydraulic machine assembly comprises a hydraulic drive unit attached with a dredge head and mounted in a housing, the inlet of said housing is the system water intake;
- a conduit means for passing water and sediments picked up from the reservoir to outside of the reservoir, said conduit means runs from the outlet of the hydraulic machine assembly housing through the wall of the reservoir, below the reservoir water level, to outside of the reservoir, and the discharge end of said conduit means is disposed at an elevation sufficiently below the water level of the reservoir to maintain a flow of water through said conduit means; and
- a support and maneuver means such as that by suspending the hydraulic machine assembly housing with cables from a mobile overhead crane or from a floating barge to support and move the hydraulic machine assembly about the reservoir.

Claim 9 (new):

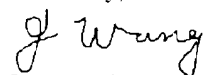
The hydraulic machine assembly of Claim 8 wherein the hydraulic drive unit is attached with a power transmission device such as a sprocket or a speed reducer for powering a detached machinery or mechanical system such as a grinder, an elevator, a conveyor, and the like.

Claim 10 (new):

The hydraulic mineral recovery and maintenance system of Claim 8 wherein the reservoir is a dam.

I thank you kindly for your patient in examining this application.

Sincerely,



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